

Special Column for Friday May 15, 2008

With Memorial Day fast approaching so is the summer concert series.

We will be talking about this much more in the coming weeks, but I wanted to get a quick head start today. This afternoon at 4 p.m. WEQX 102.7 will be announcing the musical lineup for the 5th Annual River Street Festival.

Headlining this year's musical lineup will be 80's sensation "Naked Eyes" which will be performing *There's Always Something There To Remind You* that Troy is the place to be this summer. Naked Eyes had a number of hits in the 80's, including the 1983 song *Promises, Promises*. Last year the band reunited and released *Fumbling With The Covers*, an all-new CD which consists of covers of Bob Dylan, The Beatles, Elvis Costello, along with all of the Naked Eyes hits.

They will be joined on June 14th by 2008 Vans Warped Tour artist Jet Lag Gemini, New York City recording artist ISM, and local favorites Sean Rowe, Stuck on Stupid, Mike and the Monsters and others. A special guest act will be announced on June 2nd! The two stages of music featuring more than ten acts kicks off at 11:30 a.m.

We are certainly excited for another beautiful day in the City of Troy. This festival has grown from a block party in 2004 to an expected attendance of more than 20,000 this year.

In addition to the musical acts, River Street Festival is expanding in a number of ways this year. For the first time since its inception, the northern end of River Street near City Hall will be opened to the street festival. This section of the festival will feature a number of antiques dealers, local businesses, food vendors, and the long-awaited return of sidewalk painting competition, which is being administered by the Arts Center of the Capital Region.

When we say that the festival will be bigger and better than ever this year, we mean it. There has been great enthusiasm from all of the organizers this year, and we believe that by expanding the festival we can expand upon who the event is targeted to.

Once again, Radio Disney will also be participating the annual festival with a number of family friendly events, including the Flip Your Lid Bike Helmet Design Contest, the Rhythm and Ride skateboard exhibition, the Bicycle Beauty Pageant, as well as the chance to win a trip to the 2008 X-Games.

A quick word of thanks to those that make all of this happen. The River Street Festival is sponsored by the City of Troy, 102.7 WEQX, Radio Disney, Pioneer Savings Bank, John Ray and Sons, Dana Rudolph and Company, CBS 6 Albany, the Times Union, and the Troy Downtown Collaborative.

One more thing before I stop for this week. For those of you that buy the Times Union, there will be a pullout insert featuring the City of Troy and all of our events and festivals for this summer on Sunday morning. Be sure to check it out.

Have a great weekend!

Harry J Tutunjian
Mayor of Troy